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--then, with all the diversity in the vegetable kingdom there actually is, there could be no natural foundation for their classification. The multitude of species would render it necessary to classify them, but the classification would be wholly artificial and arbitrary. The actual constitution of the vegetable kingdom, however, as appears from observation, is that some species resemble each other very closely indeed, others differ as widely as possible, and between these the most numerous and the most various grades of resemblance or difference are presented, but always with a manifest tendency to compose groups or associations of resembling species,—groups the more numerous and apparently the less definite in proportion to the number and the nearness of points of resemblance. These various associations the naturalist endeavors to express, as far as is necessary or practicable, by a series of generalizations, the lower or particular included in the higher or more comprehensive." pp. 322-323.

§ 337. *Polemonium cæruleum*, L.—A new locality is worth recording of this species, for which the recently published volume of the synoptical Flora of N. A. states but four localities east of the Rocky Mountains. I have met with it in three spots on the elevated (2600-2700 ft.), open glades around Oakland, Garrett Co., Md.

Growing in deep beds of *Sphagnum cymbifolium* and *S. acutifolium*, the stout, branching rhizomes develop numerous villous roots, and large (12-17 inches) leaves. The stems, single or in pairs, attain sometimes the height of 44 inches, overtopping the surrounding sedges (*Eriophorum Virginicum*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Carex stricta*, &c.) Leaves diminishing to pinnate and simple bracts, leaflets, 7-21, ovate, lanceolate; inflorescence a narrow cymose panicle, composed of corymbose clusters terminating the main stem and the short erect branches (not a thyrsus in the strict sense of that term, as defined by recent writers, the order of development being centrifugal in respect to the primary branches as well as the ultimate clusters); flowers erect, calyx-segments longer than tube of corolla, with spreading tips; seeds 5-21, unequally divided among the cells, usually 4-6 in each, one or two often widely wing-angled and abortive; flowering from last week in June to August.

Our other species, *Polemonium reptans*, L., is also found around Oakland, but in drier and more shaded places on the mountain-sides, and flowers about a month earlier.

JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

§ 338. An Orchid new to America.—*Epipactis Helleborine*, var. *viridans*, Irm. (*E. viridiflora*, Reichenb.) as determined by Dr. Gray, was found in the vicinity of Syracuse by Mrs. M. P. Church of the Syracuse Botanical Club, on the 6th of August, during the weekly expedition of the Club to the woods. Mrs. M. O. Rust has kindly sent us specimens. The stem is leafy but no root leaves were found. The roots were fleshy and fascicled. Mrs. Rust writes: "I should judge that there could be no doubt as to the plant's being indigenous. Its home is right in the woods, the nearest habitation being a small farm-house. It does not grow over any great territory; I should think not more

than a hundred feet square. It is on a hill under beeches, elms, maples and a few pines. In the valley near it I found, for the first time, *Pogonia pendula*, Lindl."

No plants are so eagerly sought for as orchids. Yet *Epipactis*, all these centuries, has shut itself up, waiting for the sharp eyes of the ladies of the Syracuse Botanical Club. What new discoveries are to be expected from their penetrating glances. *Place aux dames*.

§ 339. **Syracuse Botanical Club.**—We noticed the formation of this Club in our January No., under the name of the *Rust Botanical Club*. Their president, however, protested against the eponym, and it was accordingly changed. The resident members are exclusively ladies, about thirty-two in number. Their discoveries of *Botrychium Lunaria*, *Epipactis*, &c., and their list of the *Filices Onondagenses*, comprising about fifty distinct varieties, some very rare, prove them to be among the most active of botanists. The president assigns to each member some family of plants to study up. They have field-meetings twice a week in the season, a weekly meeting for study, and a business meeting on the third Monday of each month. This organization is admirable, and might be profitably imitated, where practicable.

The officers are: *President*, Mrs. S. M. Rust; *Vice-President*, Mrs. Chas. Barnes; *Treasurer*, Mrs. A. D. Fairbanks; *Secretary*, Mrs. M. J. Myers. Among the corresponding members are Profs. Gray, Eaton, Peck and Robinson. Should they ever require a seal, *Epipactis* and *Botrychium Lunaria* suggest an appropriate device.

§ 340. **Plantago Patagonica**, Jacq., var. **aristata**, Gray.—Since this plant has been found in Southern New Jersey, you may like to know that one specimen of the same was found last fall at Long Hill, on the edge of this city, by Mrs. A. V. Burnham. In the spring of this year she looked for it again, and found it growing abundantly. The locality is near a place where the horses used at a brick-kiln close by are fed, and, if western grain is used, that may account for the appearance of this western weed. I enclose a small specimen; I have others eleven inches high with a dozen mature spikes, and some of the plants were too large for herbarium sheets.

**Nantucket plants.**—A few interesting plants have been found this summer in Nantucket, Mass., farther north on the coast than they have been noticed before. *Ascyrum Crux-Andree*, L., *Hypericum adpressum*, Barton, which is very abundant near some of the ponds, and *Utricularia subulata*, L., in two localities.

These discoveries are due to the zeal of a botanical society formed there about a year ago, whose members are beginning to collect for a complete herbarium of the Island flora.

To this list of southern plants we can add *Baccharis halimifolia*, L.; *Erythraea spicata*, Pers.; a variety of *Sabbatia stellaris*, Pursh, and *Opuntia Rafinesquii*, Engelm., which have long been known on the Island. Plants much like *Opuntia vulgaris*, Mills, are also found there, but it will take another summer to decide the species positively.

MARIA L. OWEN.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Aug. 19th, 1879.